



## U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Wisconsin*

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*517 East Wisconsin Avenue*

*414 / 297-1700*

*Milwaukee, WI 53202*

*TTY 414 / 297-1088*

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### NEWS SUMMARY: WISCONSIN COUPLE INDICTED ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING CHARGES

WASHINGTON, DC - The Justice Department today announced the indictment of a Wisconsin couple, Jefferson, Sr. and Elnora Calimlim, on charges of human trafficking. The government's indictment alleges that the couple used threats of serious harm and physical restraint to coerce a Philippine woman to serve as their domestic servant for nineteen years. The indictment also charges the couple and their son, Jefferson, Jr., with alien harboring for financial gain, and charges Jefferson, Jr., with making false material statements to federal officials.

"Coerced servitude is nothing short of domestic slavery, and is both legally wrong and morally reprehensible," said R. Alexander Acosta, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division. "We take domestic servitude cases and allegations extremely seriously, and will root out this modern day evil."

"To hold another human being in involuntary servitude shows a callous disregard for human dignity," said Brian Falvey, resident agent-in-charge of ICE investigations in Milwaukee. "ICE is committed to aggressively investigating human traffickers who greedily exploit their fellow human beings."

According to the six count indictment, Jefferson, Sr. and Elnora Calimlim coerced the victim to work long hours seven days a week as a domestic servant for nineteen years for little money. The Calimlins threatened the victim with deportation and imprisonment if she disobeyed them, and confined her inside of their home, not allowing her to socialize, communicate freely with the outside world, or leave the house unsupervised. The victim was required to hide in her basement bedroom whenever non-family members were present in the house.

If convicted, Jefferson, Sr. and Elnora Calimlim each face a maximum sentence of up to 65 years in prison, mandatory restitution, and \$1,250,000 in fines. Jefferson Calimlim, Jr. faces up to 25 years in prison, restitution, and \$750,000 in fines. The indictment also seeks forfeiture of the Calimlins' house as an instrumentality of the crime.

The criminal charges in this indictment are the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The case is being jointly prosecuted by attorneys from the Civil Rights Division and the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Wisconsin. An indictment is an accusation, and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

The prosecution of individuals involved in human trafficking is a top priority of the Justice Department. Since 2001, the Justice Department has charged more than 170 human traffickers and secured convictions for 120 defendants, nearly 3 times the number of human traffickers prosecuted in the prior four years.

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For more information contact:

Public Affairs Liaison Francia Wendelborn

414-297-1700